

**BEACON**

**BEACON FOUNDATION**  
SUNSHINE COAST OUTCOMES REPORT

## CEO MESSAGE

We are all familiar with the adage 'It takes a village to raise a child.' This is the principle upon which the Beacon Foundation was built. For the past 27 years we have asserted that schools alone cannot raise our young people to be the skilled, passionate and productive citizens that Australia needs. For their future success, young people need to be connected to, and supported by, the whole community.

Twenty-seven years ago this assertion was considered radical, but not anymore. In recent times we have seen a growing awareness of the importance of community engagement in education, from the policy level all the way through to the businesses and educators on the ground.

With the economic challenges outlined in the recently released Intergenerational Report, it is clear that young people are a vital resource for our future. It is important we all ensure education provides experiences and opportunities that allow every young person to reach their full potential. We must work towards an Australia that understands, cares and is motivated to support young people to successfully transition from education to meaningful employment. This is the end game of the Beacon Foundation.



Scott Harris,  
CEO, Beacon Foundation



I have learnt that you should always have confidence within yourself and your goals."

- Student, Maroochydore State High School, QLD

# OUR APPROACH

THE BEACON PROGRAM LOGIC

## THE PROBLEM

Young people are the most vital resource for the future of our nation. Over the next five years, Australia needs to increase our workforce participation and efficiency in order to sustain our economic prosperity in the face of an ageing population.

It is essential that all of our young people participate in the workforce and be equipped with the skills needed to work in innovative and effective ways. However, currently one in three of Australia's unemployed are 24 years or younger.

We have a small window of time to change this situation.

One of the best places to start preparing young people for work is at school. We need education and training systems that are connected to the world of work. We need school curriculum that provides the knowledge, experiences and opportunities our young people need to nurture their talents, find their career direction and become work ready. We need business and the broader community to engage in the education of our people - our future workforce.

## WHAT WE DO

**GENERATE A SHARED VISION** FOR BUSINESS AND SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE.  
**DEVELOP AND FACILITATE PARTNERSHIPS** BETWEEN BUSINESSES AND SCHOOLS.  
**BUILD CAPACITY** OF BUSINESS AND SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE.  
**MONITOR AND SUPPORT** THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHARED VISION.

## WHAT WE ACHIEVE

BUSINESS AND SCHOOLS ASSUME COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S CAREER DEVELOPMENT. THEY COME TOGETHER AND DEVELOP MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIPS AROUND FOUR KEY OBJECTIVES:

1. **WORK EXPOSURE**
2. **INDUSTRY FOCUSED CURRICULUM**
3. **WORK READINESS DEVELOPMENT**
4. **JOB PLACEMENT**

## WHAT WE AIM FOR



YOUNG PEOPLE WITH  
**INCREASED MOTIVATION**  
NEW HOPES AND PLANS FOR THEIR FUTURE CAREER.  
**INCREASED ENGAGEMENT** IN EDUCATION  
**GREATER WORK READINESS**

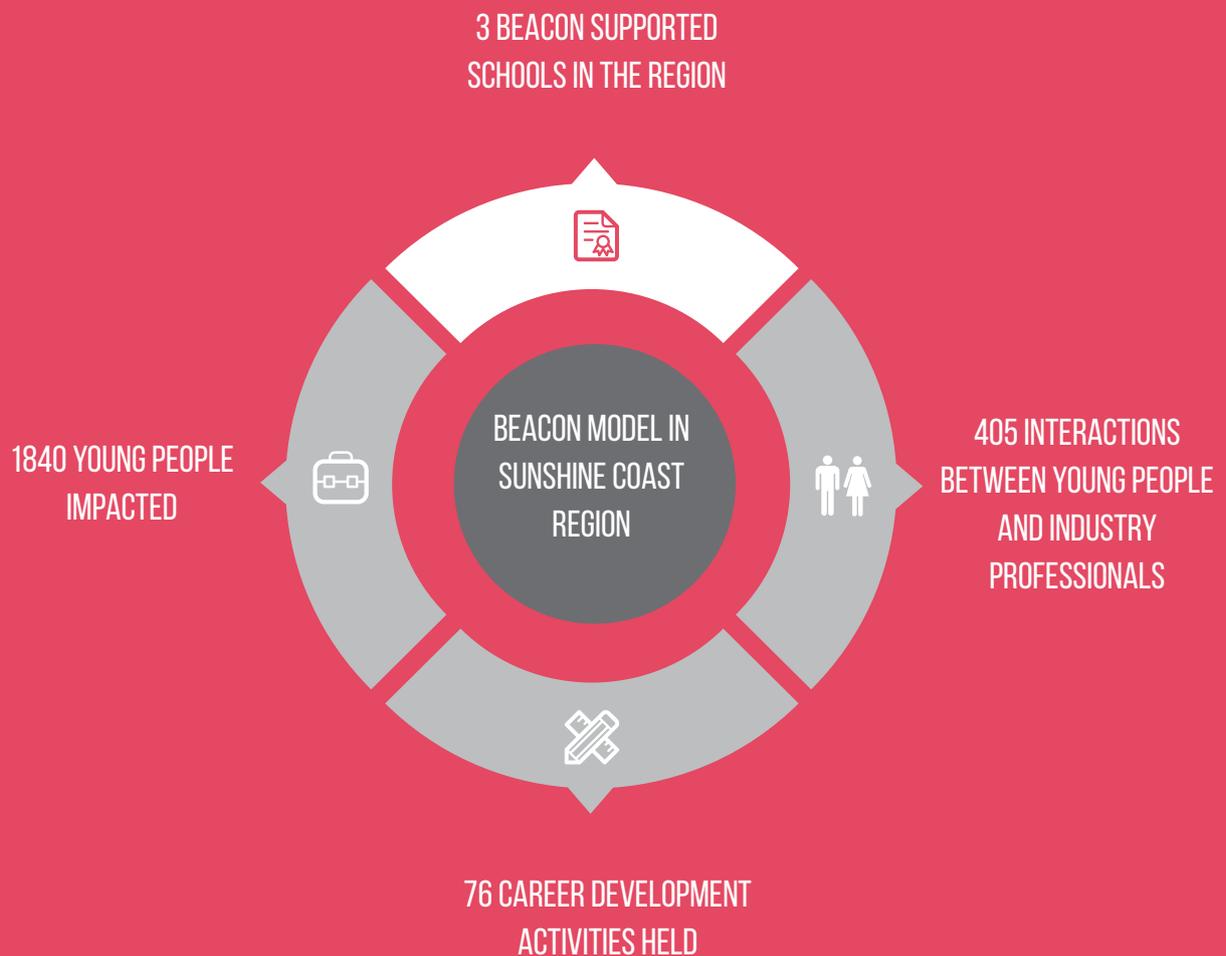
## OUR RESULTS



# SUNSHINE COAST OUTCOMES 2014

Preparing young people for the workforce requires raising awareness of careers available and linking school curriculum to these careers. Young people's understanding of the labour market (including jobs that are available and desirable) is limited by their personal background.

Short term engagement with business representatives through work exposure, or in an applied educational setting through industry focused curriculum, expands young person's network of influence and imparts valuable knowledge. In 2014, Beacon fostered the following outcomes in the Sunshine Coast Region.

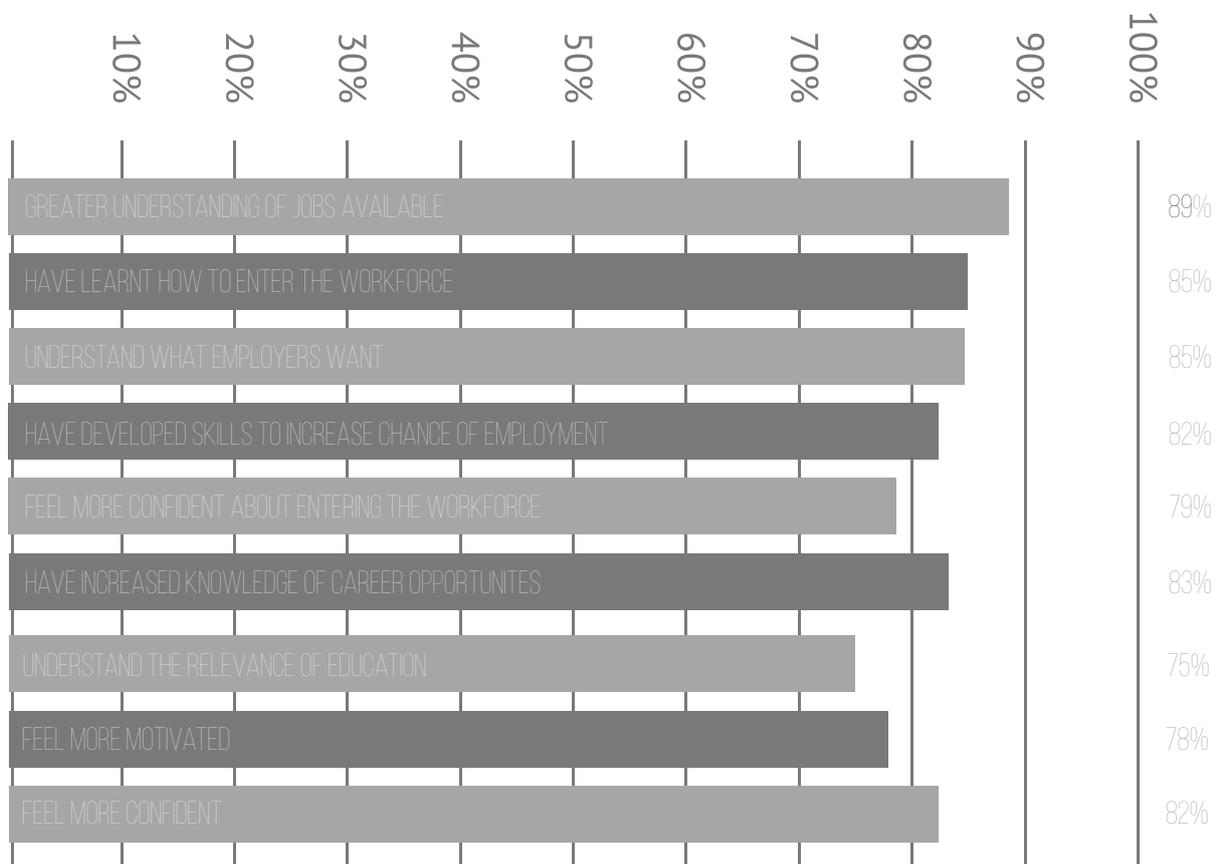


# ACTIVITY OUTCOMES 2014

## WORK EXPOSURE AND INDUSTRY FOCUSED CURRICULUM

DATA DRAWN FROM BEACON POST PROGRAM STUDENT SURVEY 2014

In 2014, Beacon schools in the Sunshine Coast region undertook 76 work exposure and industry focused curriculum activities. The impact of these activities on the young people involved was significant. Our participants reported the below results:



“

Beacon had innovative ideas about how to bring real work experience to students. The ideas are unique, fun and highly worthwhile such as Speed Careering or Ute Day. Also, there is an exceptional amount of support in order to bring these ideas into fruition. Students have been equipped with real life work experiences and skills, and have been provided with a source of inspiration for their studies. The school has formed collaborative partnerships with many different work places and teachers have gained real skills that have brought back to the classroom.”

- Teacher, Burnside State High School, QLD

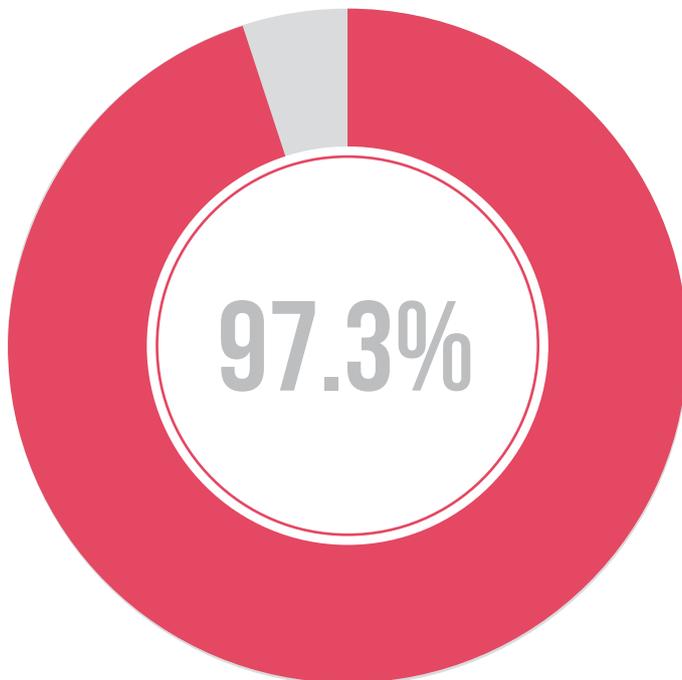


# PATHWAYS AFTER YEAR 10

DATA DRAWN FROM BEACON SCHOOL SURVEY 2014 AND ABS CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING 2011.

At a time when it is critical to have full labour force participation we have some of the highest levels of youth unemployment in our Nation's history. Currently one in three of Australia's unemployed people are under 24, and one in five are aged 15-19. Beacon schools and their communities work to ensure that their young people do not become one of these young people.

We work to ensure that their young people have the motivation, confidence, knowledge and skills to make strong future plans to reach their full potential. To understand how successful our schools are at this we look at what their young people are doing eight months after completing the Beacon program in year 10.



**97.3%** of survey participants from Beacon schools in the Sunshine Coast region were fully engaged in education, work or training eight months after completing year 10 in 2013.

This is especially impressive when compared to the average percentage of 16-17 year old Australians from low SES areas, with just 87.1% fully engaged.

The table below shows destinations of survey participants from Sunshine Coast region Beacon schools eight months after completing the Beacon program in 2013, compared to Low SES 16-17 year old Australians.

## FULLY ENGAGED IN EDUCATION, TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT

## NOT FULLY ENGAGED

	FULL TIME EDUCATION OR TRAINING	FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT	SUB TOTAL	PART TIME OR CASUAL EMPLOYMENT ONLY	LOOKING FOR WORK	NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE	SUB TOTAL
<b>2013 SUNSHINE COAST BEACON STUDENTS</b>	94.5%	2.8%	97.3%	1.2%	1.2%	0.3%	2.7%
<b>AUSTRALIA LOW SES 16-17 YEAR OLDS</b>	81.9%	5.3%	87.1%	3.7%	3.2%	6.0%	12.9%

NOTE: figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. Socio economic status is based on the SEIFA Index of Disadvantage assigned to the SLA in which individuals live. Low SES includes Lowest Quintile and Lower Middle Quintile.



“ I now understand that some goals require a lot of effort to get where you want to be.”

- Student, Nambour State High School, QLD



## CONTACT

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The logo for Beacon Foundation, featuring the word "BEACON" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The letter "A" is stylized with horizontal lines, and the letter "O" is also stylized with horizontal lines. The logo is positioned in the bottom right corner of the page, overlaid on the photograph of the students.

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## MAJOR PARTNERS



Australian Government  
Department of Education and Training



Australian Government  
Department of Human Services



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